

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A straw chopper blade comprising:

a blade having a leading edge and a trailing edge,

the blade also having a first end, the first end having a blade mounting assembly for pendulously mounting the blade to a straw chopper,

the blade also having a second end remote from the first end, the second end being provided with a tip,

a sharpened cutting edge is formed on the leading edge at the second end and extends from the tip towards the first end; and

the first end further having a paddle that extends at an a perpendicular angle from a plane of the blade from the leading edge thereof. ~~wherein the paddle is adjacent to the first end.~~

2. (cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The straw chopper blade as defined by claim [[2]] 1

wherein the trailing edge of the second end is provided with a second sharpened cutting edge extending from the tip towards the first end.

4. (Currently Amended) The straw chopper blade as defined by claim 3 wherein a second paddle extends at an angle from the trailing edge of the first end predominantly perpendicular to the plane of the blade.

5. (Currently amended) A straw chopper for an agricultural harvesting machine comprising:

a rotor having a plurality of mounting locations;

a housing enclosing the rotor, the housing having an inlet for receiving agricultural material and an outlet though which chopped agricultural material is expelled;

a bank of stationary blades are mounted to the housing;

a plurality of straw chopper blades are pendulously mounted to the rotor at the mounting locations,

each straw chopper blade having a leading edge and a trailing edge, the

blade also having a first end with a blade mounting assembly for pendulously mounting the blade to the rotor, the blade also having a second end remote from the first end, the second end being provided with a tip, a sharpened cutting edge is formed on the leading edge at the second end and extends from the tip towards the first end and a paddle also extends at an angle from the leading edge of the first end wherein the paddle is positioned ~~on the leading edge~~ between the mounting hole and the cutting edge ~~adjacent to the first end~~.

6. (Original) The straw chopper as defined by claim 5 wherein the blade defines a plane and the paddle is predominantly perpendicular to the plane.

7. (Currently amended) The straw chopper as defined by claim 6 wherein the trailing edge of the second end is provided with a second sharpened cutting edge extending from the tip towards the first end.

8. (Currently Amended) The straw chopper as defined by claim 7 wherein a second paddle extends at an angle from the trailing edge of the first end, predominantly perpendicular to the plane of the blade.

9. (Currently amended) A straw chopper blade comprising:

- a flat blade having a leading edge and a trailing edge and having a first end and an opposite second end;

- a mounting hole is provided on the first end for pendulously mounting the blade to a rotor;

- a sharpened cutting edge is formed on the leading edge at the second end, the flat blade defining a plane;

- an integral paddle is bent from the flat blade at the leading edge of the first end between the mounting hole and the cutting edge formed on the leading edge at the second end and extends at an angle from the plane defined by the flat blade.

10. (Previously amended) The straw chopper blade as defined by claim 9 wherein the rotor is a straw chopper.

11. (Currently amended) The straw chopper blade as defined by claim 10 wherein

the integral paddle is ~~on the leading edge and~~ adjacent the mounting hole.

12. (Original) The straw chopper blade as defined by claim 11 wherein the paddle extends predominantly perpendicular to the plane defined by the flat blade.

13. (Currently Amended) The straw chopper blade as defined by claim 12 wherein the trailing edge of the first end is provided with a second sharpened cutting edge.

14. (Currently Amended) The straw chopper blade as defined by claim 13 wherein a second paddle is integral with and bent from the flat blade at the first end thereof at an angle from the trailing edge predominantly perpendicular to the plane of the blade.